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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. General Statement

There were no discernible changes in the dispositions of the Soviet Army and Air Force units in the Russian Zone of Germany between 20 and 27 September 1951.

2. Soviet Ground Forces in Germany

There were indications that combined-arms exercises above regimental level were conducted at an increased rate in various training areas during the first half of September. These exercises, each lasting several days, were held by components of the Sixth Guards Mechanized Division and the 25th Tank Division in the area south of Templin; by components of the 9th Guards Tank Division in the Neustrelitz area; by components of the 18th Mechanized Division in the Wittstock area; by components of the 12th Guards Tank Division in the area north of Neustrelitz; by components of the 9th Mechanized Division in the Hoyerswerda-Spremberg area; and by components of the Eighth Guards Army in the Orhdorf-Gotha-Kindel area.

3. Large-scale field exercises by components of the 29th Guards Motorized Rifle Corps and the 20th Guards Mechanized Division were observed in the Bitterfeld-Dalitzsch-Dueben area between 18 and 21 September. Headquarters elements and headquarters units of the Fourth Guards Mechanized Army, and component units of the 7th Guards Mechanized Division arrived by rail in the Dessau-Oranienbaum area about 16 September. Vehicles observed in this same area until 21 September included some belonging to the 7th and 11th Guards Tank Divisions, the 19th Guards Mechanized Division, headquarters units of the Third Guards Mechanized Army, an unidentified artillery division from Potsdam, and a GOFG engineer regiment from Rossau. Headquarters signal and engineer units of the Second Guards Mechanized Army arrived in the Dessau-Oranienbaum area at the same time. These movements may have been preparatory to the fall manoeuvres which are expected to be conducted in this area, or to a command-post exercise involving units detached from several armies.

4. Soviet Air Forces in Germany

Recent flying activity of Soviet Air Force indicates a continuation of combined exercises involving air units of various types.

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5. The improvement of Puetnitz, Werneuchen, Briesen, Welzow and Merseburg Airfields is continuing. Indications are that they will be ready for use by the end of September. Occupation of these airfields appears to have a possible connection with the large-scale air force and army manoeuvres which are expected to take place in October. When these airfields are completed, there will be a total of 25 airfields with runways longer than 2,000 meters available in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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